



06-07-05

IRON 6 SENDS

# TRAGIC WEEKEND

## 1AD suffers 2 Fatalities

5 July 2006

Over this last long weekend – during a weekend when we surged our safety message to Soldiers – we tragically lost two Iron Soldiers and injured two more. They will no longer be in our formation. In the coming days, parents, loved ones and children and fellow Soldiers will deal with the loss of a valued family member, comrade and friend. As Commanders, Leaders, and fellow Soldiers we failed. It's that simple.

Therefore, we must take notice, learn, re-look at ourselves and our formations and adapt to the fight at hand. In each of these incidents, the signs were there. But, we missed them or failed to act.

As we go from here, I want to emphasize three points:

1) Leaders must be accountable. Every leader is responsible for effective Oak Tree counseling. I expect you to know your Soldier's off duty plans, their inherent risks, and then assist them in mitigating those risks. Stop them in their tracks if those plans do not meet the standard or ensure their welfare.

2) Soldiers must hold each other accountable. Our Warrior Ethos is founded upon a commitment to one another on the battlefield. Yet, we seem to forget that commitment during off-duty. Leaders, I want you to re-double our efforts to ensure our Soldiers face the dangers of summer in buddy-teams. No Soldier is left alone!

3) Each of us must step away from unnecessary risks. That's the whole point of composite risk analysis. Examine our plans and those of our Soldiers. Use the experience and maturity of others to help identify potential risks. And put a plan in place – with accountability measures – that reduce the potential threat. It begins with leaders earning the trust of Soldiers to talk candidly about their weekend plans and ends with leaders willing to back that investment with action.

Before the coming weekend, I want all commanders to re-iterate the inclusion of Composite Risk Management into our soldiers off-duty activities. Conduct quality Oak Tree Counseling. Understand the effects of high stress and anxiety on our soldiers. Counsel those under you that the buddy system is part of the warrior ethos. You depend on them and they depend on you!

Our lives can be changed in an instant. Take a moment to reflect on who will miss you!

Point of contact for this message and all "Iron 6 Sends" is the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division Safety Office, DSN- 314-337-4833.

FRED D. ROBINSON, JR.  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding

Post on unit safety board and other areas of high soldier traffic.